

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Amend paragraph 0053 of the published application as follows:

As illustrated in FIGS. 7-9, an endoscope insertion member or shaft 130 is formed along an outer surface 132 with a longitudinal channel 138 having a pair of opposing edges 134 and 136 defining a longitudinal slot 140. An elongate closure member 142 made, for instance, of a thermoplastic resin material, is slidably engaged with insertion member 130 along edges 134 and 136 to cover or close slot 140 during at least a portion of an endoscopic investigation. Channel 138 has a substantially circular cross-section, while closure member 142 is substantially disposed only outside of that circular cross-section, the closure member being configured to not protrude into the channel and to substantially maintain and complete the circumference of the circular cross-section thereof. Closure member has a pair of parallel longitudinal edges that engage respective opposing edges 134 and 136 to close slot 140.